

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS



"I put it back together and didn't have any parts left over!"

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

It's Hamfest time again. The date is April the 28th at the Vets building.

This month's meeting will be at MCDOUGLE HALL AT SDC. Please plan to attend as we will be planning for the Hamfest.

I understand that the first Hamfest was started by Darryl, WB6BOR, and Mike, WB6TMH in 1979. It was held behind the community center building in Sonoma. We owe them a lot of thanks for staying with it all these years.

John Sharpe's (W6TWQ SK) son has donated all his equipment to our club. Frank, KG6N, Ken, N6KM, and I went to the residence and

hauled away everything but the antennas and tower. We will need a work crew to get that stuff. I think a good time would be after one of our Saturday breakfasts. We are much indebted to the Sharp family for their generosity.

Check to see that you have paid your 2012 dues.

73 and will see you at the meeting.

—73 Jim K6UUW

U.S.Coast Guard, Two Rock Visit

Friday, May 4th is the new date! Lunch will be available and it is Friday Fish Day! We will be meeting at the Black Bear for Breakfast before carpooling to Two Rock. We must be at the Main Gate NLT (no later than) 0930.

Tour agenda and other important information will follow to those attending.

There are several spaces available. Contact Alan. K6KLL@aol.com or by land-line.

Minutes for March 21, 2012

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable President, Jim Hill, K6UUW at 7:35 PM on March 21, 2012.

Introductions There were 14 members in attendance, KD6FIL (Dave), KG6N (Frank), NN6J (Joel) WD6BOR (Darrel), KI6QIQ (Scott), W1EJ (Ed), KJ6PDD (Gordon), NJ6E (Stan), N6KM (Ken), KA2QQO (Declan), K6KLL (Alan), N7PIB (San), KJ6DPZ

(Desmond), and last but not least K6UUW (Jim)

Approval of Minutes: There were approved with no corrections.

Vice President: Nothing to announce.

Secretary: We have not started the paper work for field day, which will be at Camp VIA if it is still available.

Treasurer: Just back from vacation and we still have \$2007.26 in the bank. **Dues for next year are due.**

ACS: The Drill with Petaluma on March 10 went very well. Ken is planning a training night sometime in June to go to activate the ACS stations the various Fire Stations. This will be a good opportunity to connect with the Fire Personnel. The Great Shake Out is scheduled for October and Petaluma is hoping to come over to the Sonoma Valley and participate.

Website: We need to update the VE session Schedule.

VE Coordination: Joel NN6J is stepping down as the VE coordinator after many years of work. Everyone thanked Joel for all his work. San, N7PIB has volunteered to take over the job. There was a discussion about how to put the contact information on the website without subjecting San to hoards of spam email. Jim was going to check with VOM.com to see if we could get an email address to use for VOMARC that could then be forwarded to a club officer. It was decided to have 2 VE sessions in addition to the Hamfest. The sessions are tentatively scheduled for the 5th Saturday in June (30th) and September (29th)

Old Business

Young Eagles was rained out in February. The next event is going to be the 3rd Sunday in April (15th) to miss Easter. The program is put on by the EAA Chapter at the Sky Park to increase interest for flying in kids from 8 to 17. It is always the second Sunday of the month, weather permitting.

The tour of the Two Rock Coast Guard Base has been rescheduled to May 4th.

—Respecttfully submitted, Dave KD6FIL

Free Circuit Design Tools for Ham Radio

—By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a week ago, I started looking for a schematic capture program so that I could easily generate some simple schematics for my upcoming Extra Class study guide. Since I use a Mac as my main computer, I first asked on the Ham-Mac mailing list if anyone knew of a good one. I got several recommendations, including:

- Diptrace (<http://www.diptrace.com/>),
- Eagle (http://www.cadsoftusa.com/downloads/free_ware/?language=en), and
- McCad (<http://mccad.com/>)

Eagle looked like a good choice, although several people mentioned that the user interface “left much to be desired.”

Then, I remembered that I had OmniGraffle, which is a general-purpose diagramming tool. Googling around, I found several sets of electronic symbol libraries that could be used with OmniGraffle. I installed them, and generated a couple of figures for the study guide section that discusses T-network and pi-network filters. It was a reasonably good solution to my problem.

A Web solution

A couple of days ago, though, someone on the local Maker mailing list, pointed me towards CircuitLab (<https://www.circuitlab.com/>), an online schematic capture tool and circuit simulator. I haven't tried the circuit simulation yet, but the schematic capture tool is really easy to use. It's much easier to use for drawing circuit diagrams than OmniGraffle.

Another benefit is that it doesn't matter what computer you're using. Because it runs in a Web browser, it doesn't matter whether that browser is running on a Mac or a PC or even a Linux box.

If you set up an account, you can save circuits to your "workbench." To get you started, there are some sample circuits, such as the 555 timer circuit shown in Figure 1 (below). There's also some decent documentation and a forum

where you can discuss circuits and get some help.

Finally, the price is right, too. It looks like using CircuitLab is completely free. I couldn't find any pages that required payment.

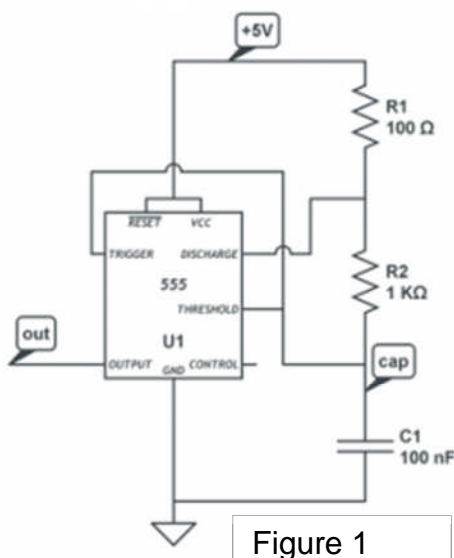


Figure 1

When not searching the Web for circuit design tools, you'll find KB6NU working 30m CW and twittering away. His Twitter id is @kb6nu and you can read his blog at www.kb6nu.com.

2012 ACS Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	EILEEN	KG6QNT
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	JIM	K6UUW
APRIL		
MAY		
JUNE	GEORGE	K6ITE
JULY	CRAIG	KF6QZP
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

2012 VOMARC Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ED	W1EJ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	JOAN	W6WXU
APRIL	DAVE	KG6FIL
MAY	FRANK	KG6N
JUNE	ED	W1EJ
JULY		
AUGUST	KEN	N6KM
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

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A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President, Training Officer

Ed Jacobson W1EJ – Vice-President,

Dave Dammuller KD6FIL – Secretary

Desmond Kelly, KI6DPZ – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Joel Nadler, NN6J – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmistress, Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge or the Sonoma Fire Station on 2nd St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

c/o Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

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**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE WED, APRIL 18, AT MC DOUGAL HALL AT THE
DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER IN ELDRIDGE AT 7:30PM
SEE YOU THERE.**

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2012 Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: \$ _____ Complimentary with Class--Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Dues may be mailed to Desmond KI6DZP, 416 Claudia Dr, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting.
Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.